



3681.

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael Lynn Hinds

Examiner: Roger L. Pang

Serial No.: 09/881,115

Filed: 06/14/2001

For: MAGNETIC PROTECTION OF HYDRAULIC SEAL

Group Art Unit 3681

(Atty. Ref. No. 15745-US)

Moline, IL 61265

17 October 2003

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DAN
10/23/03

Request for Reconsideration

The Honorable Commissioner

of Patents and Trademarks

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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Responsive to the Office Action dated 15 August, 2003, applicant requests that the above-identified application be reconsidered for the reasons set forth below.

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1 - 16 remain in this case .

Claims 1 and 9 are under a rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable over Teske. It is respectfully submitted that this rejection is in error as Teske does not disclose or make obvious the claimed invention.

Specifically, among other structure, claim 1 requires a gearbox containing gearing and a low section having a bottom wall through which a gear drive shaft extends. Further it is required that there be a seal between the drive shaft and the bottom wall for preventing the leakage of oil along an interface including a surface section of the drive shaft where it enters the bottom wall of the gearbox. All of the above structure is old. What is new is the requirement that a contaminant collector having a magnetic characteristic be mounted **closely adjacent a top surface of the seal so as to prevent ferric contaminants from coming into contact with the seal.** This is very important since the rotating shaft will carry the contaminants and